

Dear Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Lisa Kelly, and I am from Guilford, CT.

I am writing to support the following bills that will enhance voter participation in Connecticut:

- [S.B. No. 184](#) (Raised) An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of Covid-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot.
- [H.B. No. 5262](#) (Raised) An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.

As we saw in 2020, more access to absentee ballots and early voting opportunities increases voter turnout. Democracy is built on free, fair, and accessible elections, and providing no-excuse absentee ballots and early voting will allow more Connecticut voters access and flexibility in voting. It would reduce long lines on Election Day, and allow for early identification and correction of registration errors or glitches. Connecticut's existing absentee ballot restrictions do not adequately remove the obstacles of voting on a single day that many voters face.

Opponents claim that early voting and absentee ballots increase voter fraud or "double-voting." Multiple state-wide government inquiries, national news outlet investigations, and court rulings all find that there is not widespread in-person voter fraud nationally or in states with early voting (1). The Brennan Center for Justice, in their report "The Truth About Voter Fraud" says, "most reported incidents of voter fraud are actually traceable to other sources, such as clerical errors or bad data matching practices." (2)

Ultimately, enhancing voter participation only strengthens our democracy.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for the work you do on behalf of Connecticut's citizens.

Lisa Kelly
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(1): https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/07/09/7-papers-4-government-inquiries-2-news-investigations-and-1-court-ruling-proving-voter-fraud-is-mostly-a-myth/?utm_term=.94636ba0a914

(2): <http://www.brennancenter.org/publication/truth-about-voter-fraud>